

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A lever ring for seaming to a body (20) and for receiving a closure layer (4) affixed with an edge ~~by means of~~ portion by sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body (20) in a seam-connected position, wherein
 - (i) the lever ring comprises a continuous flat web (3a, 3b, 3e) which radially outwardly ~~merges~~ changes into an edge rim (2) of the lever ring, a continuous surrounding groove (N1, N2, N3) extending between the edge rim and the flat web;
 - (ii) the flat web is suitable for ~~connecting and affixing the edge portion of~~ the closure layer (4) by sealing, and extends at an angle ($\alpha 1, \alpha 2, \alpha 3$) differing from zero with respect to a plane of the closure layer (4) affixed, ~~that has been connected by such said sealing, at an angle ($\alpha 1, \alpha 2, \alpha 3$) differing from zero.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A lever ring for seaming to a body (20) and for receiving a closure layer (4) affixed with an edge ~~by means of~~ portion thereof by sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body (20) in a seam-connected position, wherein
 - (i) the lever ring comprises a continuous flat web (3a, 3b, 3e) which radially outwardly ~~changes~~ continues into an edge rim (2) of the lever ring, a continuous groove (N1, N2, N3) extending between the edge rim and the flat web;

- (ii) the flat web extends upwardly inclined from a horizontal plane at an angle (α_2) differing from zero and is provided with an inner curling (4) on its radially inner end so that a closure layer (1) ~~affixed to it by sealing (30)~~ sealed to the flat web and subjected to a pressure force (F_1) acting vertically to a plane of extension of the closure layer introduces a substantial force component (z) into a sealing ~~seam (30) zone~~, so that the force component extends in an extension direction of the sealing zone. ~~seam, upon a pressure force (F_1) acting vertically to a plane of extension of the closure layer.~~
3. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.
4. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle (α_2) is between substantially 40° and 60°.
5. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle (α_2) is between substantially 25° and 35°.
6. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle (α_2) is between substantially 80° and 90°.
7. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer (1).

8. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein said ~~receiving~~sealing of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge portion of the closure layer ~~by a sealing strip (30) on~~a sealing zone to the flat web ~~(3a, 3b, 3c)~~which sealing zone strip extends circumferentially along with the edge rim (2) of the lever ring.

9. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein the flat web comprises radially inwards an inner curling ~~(4)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the closure layer extends ~~over on~~ the inner curling ~~(4)~~ and is deflected ~~(4)~~ so that an edge strip ~~(1b)~~ is formed, which extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to ~~the a~~ a plane of the closure layer ~~(4)~~ in the inner space area of the lever ring.

11. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the closure layer is formed as a membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil.

12. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the sealing zone ~~seam~~ ~~(30)~~ as a strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width ~~on the of~~ extension one of the flat web ~~(3)~~, this, the width being more than half ~~the of~~ a width of the flat web.

13. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the inner curling axially projects above an upper side of the lid rim (2) with an alignment of the flat web (3a) that projects steeply upwards.

14. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the groove (N1, N2, N3) is of a wedge-shaped design with a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the surrounding lid rim (2) and the surrounding inclined flat web, (3a, 3b, 3c) that is oriented in an inclined fashion.

15. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.

16. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle (α_2) is between substantially 40° and 60°.

17. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle (α_2) is between substantially 25° and 35°.

18. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle (α_2) is between substantially 80° and 90°.

19. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer (4).

20. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein said receiving of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge of the closure layer ~~to a circumferential by~~ a sealing strip (30) on the flat web, ~~(3a, 3b, 3c) which sealing strip extends circumferentially.~~

21. (cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer extends ~~over on~~ the inner curling (4) and is ~~thereby~~ deflected ~~(u)~~ so that an edge strip ~~(4b)~~ is formed, which extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to the plane of the closure layer ~~(4)~~ in the inner space area of the lever ring.

23. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer is formed as a membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil.

24. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein ~~a the sealing seam (30)~~ as a strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width on ~~the extension of the flat web (3),~~ this width being more than half ~~of a the~~ width of the flat web.

25. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein ~~an~~ the inner curling at the flat web axially projects above an upper level side of the lid rim (2) with an alignment of the flat web (3a) ~~that~~ projecting steeply upwards.

26. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the groove (N1, N2, N3) is of a wedge-shaped design with having a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the lid rim (2) and the flat web (3a, 3b, 3c) ~~that is oriented in an inclined fashion extending at an angle differing from zero.~~